1. (Twice Amended) A data processing apparatus having connection means for being connected to a plurality of image output apparatuses, comprising:

first obtaining means for obtaining first data associated with an image output job, the first data being designated by an operator;

limiting means for limiting the first data which can be designated by the operator;

second obtaining means for obtaining second data from the image output job, the second data not being designated by the operator;

selection means for selecting an image output apparatus, based on the first data and the second data, from the plurality of image output apparatuses; and

job assigning means for assigning the image output job to the image output apparatus selected by said selection means,

wherein the first data is limited by the limiting means so that the selection means selects at least one of the plurality of image output apparatuses each time an image output job is to be output.

3. (Twice Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selection means selects

the image output apparatus further based on states of the image output apparatuses.

4. (Twice Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selection means comprises confirmation means for confirming a function of each of the plurality of image output apparatuses connected by said connection means, and selects the image output apparatus having the function to perform an output operation corresponding to the first and second data.

5. (Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said confirmation means confirms the function of each of the plurality of image output apparatuses by referring to a memory which stores in advance data indicative of the function of each of the plurality of image output apparatuses connected by said connection means.

6. (Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said confirmation means confirms the function of each of the plurality of image output apparatuses by communicating with each of the

plurality of image output apparatuses connected by said connection means.

7. (Twice Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where the first data designates to select an image output apparatus which completes execution of the image output job in a short time period, said selection means selects an image output apparatus which can perform the output operation in a short time period, based on a state of the image output job assigned to each of the image output apparatuses and the second data.

8. (Not Changed From Prior Version) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising display means for displaying a message regarding an execution state of the image output job assigned to each of the plurality of image output apparatuses connected by said connection means.

9. (Twice Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where the first data designates to select an image output apparatus capable of a color image output, said selection means confirms a

function of each of the plurality of image output apparatuses connected by said connection means and selects an image output apparatus which can perform the color image output.

10. (Twice Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where the first data designates to select an image output apparatus capable of printing on both sides of a recording medium, said selection means confirms a function of each of the plurality of image output apparatuses connected by said connection means and selects an image output apparatus which can perform the printing on both sides of the recording medium.

11. (Twice Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where the first data designates a size of an output image, said selection means confirms a function of each of the plurality of image output apparatuses connected by said connection means and selects an image output apparatus which can perform an output operation in the designated size.

12. (Twice Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where there are plural image output apparatuses which can perform an output

operation corresponding to the first and second data, said selection means selects one of the plural image output apparatuses based on priorities set in advance.

13. (Twice Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where there are plural image output apparatuses which can perform an output operation corresponding to the first and second data, said selection means allows an operator to select one of the plural image output apparatuses.

14. (Twice Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where the first data designates plural output forms, said selection means selects an image output apparatus which can perform an output operation in all of the plural output forms.

15. (Amended) An image output system comprising the data processing apparatus according to claim 1 and a plurality of image output apparatuses connected to the data processing apparatus by said connection means.

16. (Twice Amended) A data processing method for executing an image output job by selecting one of a plurality of image output apparatuses, comprising the steps of:

obtaining first data associated with an image output job, the first data being designated by an operator;

limiting the first data which can be designated by the operator;

obtaining second data from the image output job, the second data not being designated by the operator;

selecting an image output apparatus, based on the first and second data, from the plurality of image output apparatuses; and

assigning the image output job to the image output apparatus selected in said selecting step,

wherein the first data is limited so that the selecting step selects at least one of the plurality of image output apparatuses each time an image output job is to be output.

18. (Twice Amended) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein in said selecting step, an image output apparatus is selected further based on states of the image output apparatuses.

19. (Twice Amended) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein said selecting step comprises a step of confirming a function of each of the plurality of image output apparatuses, and selects an image output apparatus having a function to perform an output operation corresponding to the first and second data.

20. (Amended) The data processing method according to claim 19, wherein in said confirming step, the function of each of the plurality of image output apparatuses is confirmed by referring to a memory which stores in advance data indicative of the function of each of the image output apparatuses.

21. (Amended) The data processing method according to claim 19, wherein in said confirming step, the function of each of the plurality of image output apparatuses is confirmed by communicating with each of the image output apparatuses.

22. (Twice Amended) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein in a case where the first data designates to select an image output apparatus which completes execution of the image output job in a short time

period, in said selecting step, an image output apparatus which can perform an output operation in a short time period is selected based on a state of the image output job assigned to each of the image output apparatuses and the second data.

23. (Amended) The data processing method according to claim 16, further comprising a step of displaying a message regarding an execution state of the image output job assigned to each of the image output apparatuses.

24. (Twice Amended) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein in a case where the first data designates to select an image output apparatus capable of a color image output, in said selecting step, a function of each of the image output apparatuses is confirmed, and an image output apparatus which can perform the color image output is selected.

25. (Twice Amended) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein in a case where the first data designates to select an image output apparatus capable of printing on both sides of a recording medium, in said selecting step, a function of each of the image output apparatuses is confirmed and an image output apparatus which

can perform the printing on both sides of the recording medium is selected.

26. (Twice Amended) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein in a case where the first data designates a size of an output image, in said selecting step, function of each of the image output apparatuses is confirmed and an image output apparatus which can perform an output operation in the designated size is selected.

27. (Twice Amended) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein in a case where there are plural image output apparatuses which can perform an output operation corresponding to the first and second data, one of the plural image output apparatuses is selected in said selecting step based on priorities set in advance.

28. (Twice Amended) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein in a case where there are plural image output apparatuses which can perform an output operation corresponding to the first and second data, one of the plural image output apparatuses is selected in said selecting step based on an instruction input by an operator.

29. (Twice Amended) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein in a case where the first data designates plural output forms, an image output apparatus which can perform an output operation in all of the plural output forms is selected in said selecting step.

30. (Twice Amended) A data processing apparatus having connection means for being connected to a plurality of image output apparatuses, comprising:

first obtaining means for obtaining first data associated with an image output job, the first data being designated by an operator;

limiting means for limiting the first data which can be designated by the operator;

second obtaining means for obtaining second data from the image output job, the second data not being designated by the operator; and

selection means for selecting an image output apparatus, based on the first data and the second data, from the plurality of image output apparatuses,

wherein the first data is limited by the limiting means so that the selecting means selects at least one of the plurality of image output apparatuses each time an image output job is to be output.

31. (Twice Amended) A data processing method for executing an image output job by selecting one of a plurality of image output apparatuses, comprising the steps of:

obtaining first data associated with an image output job, the first data being designated by an operator;

limiting the first data which can be designated by the operator;

obtaining second data from the image output job, the second data not being designated by the operator; and

selecting an image output apparatus, based on the first and second data, from the plurality of image output apparatuses,

wherein the first data is limited so that the selecting step selects at least one of the plurality of image output apparatuses each time an image output job is to be output.

32. (Twice Amended) A memory medium storing program code for controlling a data processing apparatus which includes connection means for being connected to a plurality of image output apparatuses, the program code comprising the steps of:

obtaining first data associated with an image output job, the first data being designated by an operator;

limiting the first data which can be designated by the operator;

obtaining second data from the image output job, the second data not being designated by the operator;

selecting an image output apparatus, based on the first and second data, from the plurality of image output apparatuses; and

assigning the image output job to the image output apparatus selected in said selecting step,

wherein the first data is limited so that the selecting step selects at least one of the plurality of image output apparatuses each time an image output job is to be output.

33. (Twice Amended) A program for controlling a data processing apparatus having connection means for being connected to a plurality of image output apparatuses, the program comprising the steps of;

obtaining first data associated with an image output job, the first data being designated by an operator;

limiting the first data which can be designated by the operator;

obtaining second data from the image output job, the second data not being designated by the operator;

selecting an image output apparatus, based on the first and second data, from the plurality of image output apparatuses; and

assigning the image output job to the image output apparatus selected in said selecting step,

wherein the first data is limited so that the selecting step selects at least one of the plurality of image output apparatuses each time an image output job is to be output.

34. (Twice Amended) A memory medium storing program code for controlling a data processing apparatus which includes connection means for being connected to a plurality of image output apparatuses, the program comprising the steps of:

obtaining first data associated with an image output job, the first data being designated by an operator;

limiting the first data which can be designated by the operator;

obtaining second data from the image output job, the second data not being designated by the operator; and

selecting an image output apparatus, based on the first and second data, from the plurality of image output apparatuses,

wherein the first data is limited so that the selecting step select at least one of the plurality of image output apparatuses each time an image output job is to be output.

35. (Twice Amended) A program for controlling a data processing apparatus having connection means for being connected to a plurality of image output apparatuses, the program comprising the steps of:

obtaining first data associated with an image output job, the first data being designated by an operator;

limiting the first data which can be designated by the operator;

obtaining second data from the image output job, the second data not being designated by the operator; and

selecting an image output apparatus, based on the first and second data, from the plurality of image output apparatuses,

wherein the first data is limited so that the selecting step selects at least one of the plurality of image output apparatuses each time an image output job is to be output.